

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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SUOJECT: AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER (AALC) REPRESENTATIVE
WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FROM LIBERIAN CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS
(CIO)

REF: (A) MONROVIA A-17 OF MARCH 19, 1976, (B) MONROVIA 2571

SUMMARY: AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER (AALC) MONROVIA REPRESENT-
ATIVE EDWARD KUDLA HAS NOTIFIED EMBASSY, CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL
ORGANIZATIONS (CIO), AND UNITED WORKERS CONGRESS (UWC) LEADERSHIP
OF HIS DECISION TO WITHHOLD FURTHER FINANCIAL AID TO CIO PENDING
OUTCOME OF CHARGES AGAINST CIO SECRETARY-GENERAL AMOS GRAY. ALLC
DECISION FURTHER DARKENS PROSPECTS FOR SURVIVAL OF INDEPENDENT
CIO. END SUMMARY.

1. EDWARD KUDLA, ALLC REPRESENTATIVE BASED IN MONROVIA, HAS
INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HE IS WITHDRAWING ALL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM
CIO PENDING OUTCOME OF FRAUD AND EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES AGAINST AMOS
GRAY, CIO SECRETARY-GENERAL.

2. AALC NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS HAS EX POST FACTO CLEARED KUDLA
DECISION TO WITHHOLD FUNDING.

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3. KUDLA DECISION BASED ON FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS: (A) HIS BELIEF

THAT FURTHER ALLC FUNDS WILL BE USED TO PAY LEGAL EXPENSES OF GRAY RATHER THAN TO BENEFIT LIBERIAN LABOR MOVEMENT; (B) HIS ASSUMPTION THAT GRAY IS GUILTY OF DEFRAUDING UNION AND SHOULD BE FOUND GUILTY OF CHARGES; (C) CIO REFUSAL TO "CLEAN ITS OWN HOUSE" AND INDEPENDENTLY INVESTIGATE CHARGES AGAINST ITS LEADERSHIP; (D) HIS BELIEF THAT AFL-CIO SPONSORED AALC CANNOT MORALLY SUPPORT OPENLY CORRUPT AND INCOMPETENT CIO LEADERSHIP; (E) HIS ASSUMPTION THAT RIVAL UNITED WORKERS CONGRESS (UWC) WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS IN FUTURE COMPETITION WITH CIO; (F) HIS BELIEF THAT GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA FAVORS UNITED WORKERS CONGRESS AND THAT AALC SHOULD NOT OPPOSE GOL.

4. ON APRIL 15 KUDLA INFORMED CIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HIS DECISION. GRAY HAS STRONGLY PROTESTED THAT AALC IS "LETTING DOWN OLD FRIEND." OTHER CIO LEADERSHIP CLAIMS THAT CIO CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT FURTHER AALC ASSISTANCE.

5. IN MEETING ARRANGED BY CIO RECORDER, ZEUS CARTER, KUDLA INFORMED FRANK WALKER, UWC SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND J. WELLINGTON ROSS, SUSPENDED CIO ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL (ROSS AND CARTER CALLED FOR GRAY IMPEACHMENT BY CIO EXECUTIVE BOARD, SEE REF B) OF HIS DECISION. UWC, ELATED AT KUDLA DECISION, HAS REQUESTED AALC FINANCIAL SUPPORT. NEITHER KUDLA NOR AALC TO DATE HAVE MADE DECISION TO SUPPORT UWC.

6. KUDLA INTENDS TO NOTIFY MINISTRY OF LABOR OF HIS DECISION.

7. IN A SIDE DEVELOPMENT, LEADING CIO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER JAMES T. BASS HAS BEEN NAMED AS COUNTY INSPECTOR FOR MONTSERRRADO COUNTY (MONROVIA) BY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN RECONSTRUCTION E. JONATHAN GOODRIDGE. LIBERIAN STAR ARTICLE REPORTING BASS APPOINTMENT APRIL 13 REFERRED TO HIM AS "FORMER CIO OFFICIAL." BASS HAS, HOWEVER, NOT YET RESIGNED SEAT ON CIO EXECUTIVE BOARD AND WILL REPRESENT CIO WITH GRAY AT ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY (OATUU) CONGRESS IN TRIPOLI APRIL 19 (SEE REF B).

8. COMMENT: KUDLA APPEARS TO BE COMPLETELY DISILLUSIONED WITH CIO LEADERSHIP (AND LIBERIA AFTER HIS TWO MONTH STAY IN MONROVIA). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE MAY BE REPLACED BY AALC NEW YORK IF IT DECIDES TO REVERSE HIS DECISION. OTHERWISE, HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE IN MONROVIA COULD LEAD TO AALC RESOLVE TO SUPPORT UWC ACTIVITIES. FINANCIALLY PRESSED, CIO'S DAYS SEEM NUMBERED. CIO-UWC MERGER, MINUS GRAY, PRATT AND BASS, SEEMS HIGHLY LIKELY. CIO PRESIDENT PRATT IS READY TO RETIRE. BASS IS COVERING HIMSELF WITH GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT. GRAY'S FATE REMAINS IN DOUBT. HE IS INCREASINGLY A DESPERATE MAN. HE WOULD LIKE INTERNATIONAL LABOR APPOINTMENT

BUT ONE HAS NOT YET MATERIALIZED. ANY NOMINAL CIO-UWC
MERGER WOULD BE CLEARLY DOMINATED BY PRESENT UWC LEADERSHIP.
ROSS, HOWEVER, COULD EXPECT POSITION ON FUTURE CIO-UWC EXECUTIVE
BOARD. END COMMENT.
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